

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BOMBAY 00797 080820Z

15

ACTION NEA-05

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R 080530Z APR 74

FM AMCONSUL BOMBAY

TO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

SECSTATE WASHDC 4363

USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS BOMBAY 0797

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, NP

SUBJ: TRADE OPPORTUNITY: HELICOPTERS

REF: KATHMANDU 1370

1. WE PASSED CONTENTS REFTEL TO KEKOO MANECKJI, JEAN'S FATHER, WHO INDICATED HE VERY MUCH AWARE OF ALOUETTE POSSIBILITY. ACCORDING TO MANECKJI, FRENCH HAVE FOR SOME TIME BEEN OFFERING TO GIVE TWO ALOUETTES TO NEPALESE "PRACTICALLY AS GIFTS". NEPALESE HAVE THUS FAR NOT ACCEPTED BECAUSE OF MAINTENANCE PROBLEMS AND ALSO SIMPLY BECAUSE ALOUETTE IS NOT SUFFICIENTLY LUXURIOUS FOR KING'S CORONATION CEREMONY. MANECKJI RECOGNIZES NEPALESE "MAY BE FORCED TO ACCEPT FOR POLITICAL REASONS", AND SAID IN FACT THAT ALOUETTES OFFERED BY FRENCH ARE SAME OR VERY SIMILAR TO MODEL THAT WILL BE ASSEMBLED IN INDIA, WHICH WOULD MAKE MAINTENANCE EASIER.

2. MANECKJI BRIEFLY RELATED HISTORY OF BELL'S INTEREST IN SELLING HELICOPTERS TO NEPAL AND SAID NEPAL'S INSISTENCE ON LONG-TERM FINANCING FOR WHAT BELL CONSIDERS RELATIVELY SMALL SALE HAD DAMPENED BELL ENTHUSIASM. HE INDICATED HIS INTENTION PURSUE MATTER, HOWEVER, AND SAID HE WOULD REQUEST INFORMATION FROM HIS REPRESENTATIVES IN KATHMANDU. IN THIS REGARD, MANECKJI VERY MUCH APPRECIATED KATHMANDU'S INTEREST.

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PAGE 02 BOMBAY 00797 080820Z

BANE

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